CFAES OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Mulching the RIGHT way

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What is Mulch ?

- Protective covering material
- Organic/Inorganic
- Covers soil surface

https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.terminix.com%2Fblog%2Fbug-facts%2Fdoes-mulch-attract-termites%2F&psig=AOvVaw1iaOJ5DAmIwSIYb1ODzPbkE&ust=1590155440069100&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCNJm-CPuaCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAI

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Types of Mulch

- **Inorganic (do not decompose)**
  - Landscape fabric (geotextile)
  - Plastic film
  - Rocks or gravel
  - Brick chips
  - Shredded rubber
- **Organic (decaying plant materi**
  - Grass clippings
  - Straw
  - Pine needles
  - Leaves
  - Peat moss
  - Compost
  - Wood fiber
  - Bark

Different types of mulches: (a) wood chips, (b) pine bark nuggets, (c) shredded hardwood bark and (d) brick chips.

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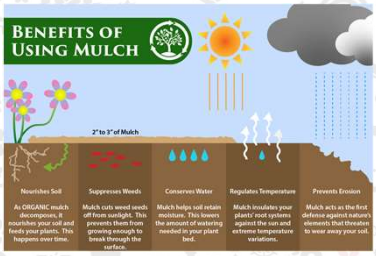
Benefits of Mulch



https://1stoplandscapefl.com/the-benefits-of-mulch/

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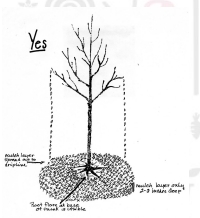
Improper versus Proper Mulching

Improper Mulch
Root flare buried &
Mulch piled high up against the trunk

Proper Mulch
Root flare visible at the base of the tree &
Mulch extends to dripline of canopy

PC: treefolks.org



https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.marylandnaturecommission.com%2Fmulching-trees-correctly%2F&psig=AOvVaw0WbWnuOhmX0WRlnL2-_&ust=1590153216325000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCMjo6Ozas0CFQAAAAAdAAAAABAN

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Resources

- **Penn State University Extension-Mulching Landscape Trees**
- https://extension.psu.edu/mulching-landscape-trees
- **University of Tennessee Extension-Mulching Your Trees and Landscapes**
- https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/SP617.pdf
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension-Types and Uses of Mulch in the Landscape**
- http://chemung.cce.cornell.edu/resources/mulch-in-the-landscape

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Outdoor Demonstration

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